

## Anniversary. . .

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The actual anniversary date of Jan. 28 will be marked by observances planned by the Astronauts Memorial Foundation (AMF) and the City of Titusville. A ceremony at the Space Mirror memorial at the KSC visitor center will start at 11:15 a.m. and be open to the general public and employees as well as invited guests. Speakers will include: George R. Faenza, chairman of the AMF board of directors and general manager of McDonnell Douglas Space and Defense Systems at KSC; Alan Helman, founding chairman of AMF; Bruce Jarvis, father of Challenger Payload Specialist Gregory B. Jarvis; and AMF board member Lee D. Solid, vice president and general manager of Florida Operations of Rockwell International.

Former astronaut Loren J. Shriver, who is presently launch integration manager for the Space Shuttle Program and chairs the NASA Mission Management Team for all Shuttle launches, will be the keynote speaker representing the astronaut corps and the families of the honored astronauts.

The ceremony will conclude with 73 seconds of silence and the placement of a wreath at the memorial by astronaut family members who are present. AMF erected the memorial on KSC property through revenues from Florida Challenger license plates and contributions by individuals and corporations. Since then it has created a living memorial in the form of a "Center for Space Education" at the KSC visitor center to house NASA and AMF programs.

**Childrens programs** -- On Saturday, Jan. 27, a program co-sponsored by the Young Astronaut Program, NASA, AMF, and Delaware North Park Services, which operates the KSC visitor center, will reach out to children from kindergarten through the 12th grade. The "Reach for the Stars" program will begin at 10 a.m. when KSC Deputy Director Gene Thomas and Apollo 13 crew member Fred Haise will

welcome participants at the Space Mirror memorial.

Among the activities, teams of several separate age groups will learn to engineer and build structures to protect raw eggs which will be dropped more than 20 feet from the top-level gantry of the Space Shuttle Explorer Children can register through their school or contact the EG&G Florida sponsor at 867-1341 no later than Jan. 22.

**Model rocket launches** -- Four launches are planned at the top of the hour, 12 p.m. - 3 p.m., representing Mercury, Gemini, Apollo and Shuttle.

**Living in space** -- On the half hour, from 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., presentations will be given on rocketry, the Space Shuttle and various aspects of living in space in Room 4000 (Exploration Station I), at The Center for Space Education.

**Revisiting Apollo 13** -- Fred Haise will show video footage and discuss his Apollo 13 mission in the briefing room of The Center for Space Education, at scheduled times.

**Displays** -- Local students' space art will be on display throughout The Center for Space Education. In the lobby, there will be an interactive demonstration of the launch and landing of the Delta Clipper, the single stage-to-orbit launch vehicle being developed by McDonnell Douglas. At the north end of the Rocket Garden, an M-113 Crew Rescue Vehicle and a Bearcat All-Terrain Vehicle will be on display. Student groups will also be involved in construction of a 10-foot-tall Space Shuttle out of Lego pieces.

**Titusville commemoration** -- Each year the City of Titusville has a ceremony at the Astronaut Memorial Plaza in Sand Point Park. The event will begin at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 28, dedicated to both the 51-L crew and the Apollo 1 astronauts. Titusville Mayor Tom Mariani will open the 45-minute service, which will also involve local high school students placing a carnation at each astronaut's plaque and an apple at Christa McAuliffe's plaque.

## Marshall director Bridwell to retire

G. Porter Bridwell, director of the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, AL, has announced plans to retire from NASA by Feb. 3.

Bridwell, 60, has been director of the NASA center since January of 1994.

"I've been out here for 38 years, 34 of it with NASA," he told his senior staff, "it's time to go."

"During his long career, Porter Bridwell has epitomized all the best qualities of federal service," said NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin. "And, as Marshall Director over the last two years, he has paved the way

in restructuring the Center and defining its new role for the future."

Bridwell started his career as an aerospace industry engineer in 1958, joining NASA four years later.

He served as an engineering manager on the Saturn program, headed the development of the Space Shuttle External Tank, and managed all the Space Shuttle main propulsion systems while at Marshall.

Bridwell has received the NASA Exceptional Service Medal, the Outstanding Leadership Medal, and the Exceptional Achievement Medal.

## Launch. . .

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The launch followed the longest federal shutdown in the center's history. As a result of an impasse over passage of the federal budget, a majority of KSC-NASA employees were sent home Dec. 16 through Jan. 8. Out of 2,195 NASA employees at KSC, 800 were authorized to work either full time or intermittently during that period, said Beverly Merrilees, NASA personnel officer.

A continuing resolution passed on Jan. 5, restored back pay to civil servants and funded a return to work through Jan. 26.

Loren Shriver, Space Shuttle Program Launch Integration manager, said if the budgetary

issues are not resolved by Jan. 26 and NASA does not receive separate funding, decisions will have to be made immediately about which programs will receive priority.

Congressional support for the space program should result in a funding resolution before that date, Brevard Congressman Dave Weldon said after viewing the launch at KSC.

Weldon said NASA is an "innocent victim" in the federal budget battle and that KSC employees hopefully will be protected from further furloughs.

Weldon said NASA has strong backing in the House and Senate and will likely escape further wrangling over the budget, either through passage of a balanced budget or as part of a freestanding funding bill.



John F. Kennedy Space Center

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